

Tiverton  
Rural District Council.

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REPORT



OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

For the Year ending  
31st December, 1946.

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TIVERTON :

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE  
AUTHORITY.

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(a) *Part time M.O.H. :*

G. NICHOLSON, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

(b) *Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer :*

W. KEMP, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., F.F.Sc.

(c) *Sanitary Inspectors :*

W. P. ROBERTS, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

D. G. EVANS, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.



TO THE  
TIVERTON  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF  
THE AREA.

AREA. 114,139 Acres.

POPULATION estimated 19,980.

RATEABLE VALUE, £74,794.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE, £324 6s. 4d.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS. Agriculture being the chief occupation of the inhabitants, conditions are on the whole good.

SLAUGHTERING INDUSTRIES.

Government Slaughterhouse, Tiverton Junction.

# EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live } Births }	Legitimate	349	184	165	} Birth Rate per 1000 the population—18·8
	Illegitimate	28	9	19	
Stillbirths ...	...	11	7	4	} Rate per 1000 total (live and still-births) births—29·1
Deaths ...	...	221	94	127	
					} Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population— 11·6

Deaths from diseases & accidents } from sepsis Nil.  
of pregnancy & child-birth } „ other causes Nil.

## Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	28·3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	25·7
Illegitimate infants deaths under one ...	2
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	Nil.
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil.
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	1
„ „ Cancer... ..	33

## STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

Births per 1,000 of population ...	} Live 17·1 Still 46
Deaths ...	
Deaths under one year of age ...	43

## EXCESSIVE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR.

Nil.

The Birth rate is the highest recorded for many years.



# GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. NURSING in the Home. No change.
2. NUMBER OF MIDWIVES practising in the Area. The District Nurses of which there are 16 act in this capacity.
3. LABORATORY FACILITIES. Clinical material is examined at the County Laboratories as before.
4. LEGISLATION IN FORCE. There has been no major change during the past year with regard to Legislation in Force throughout the Area.
5. THE TIVERTON JOINT HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES. The position in the above is unsatisfactory. There is a chronic shortage of staff which seriously limits the usefulness of the Institution. Should an Epidemic occur it would be impossible to apply satisfactory measure for isolation.

GENERAL SURGICAL and Medical Cases are sent to the Tiverton and District Hospital or the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. These have always proved adequate in accommodation.

MATERNITY CASES requiring hospital treatment usually are admitted to the Tiverton & District Hospital. Admissions have to be limited owing to danger of overcrowding. Many patients are turned away.

## INOCULATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

It is calculated that between the years 1938 to 1945 1431 children under 5 have been fully immunised.

2835 between the ages 5 to 15.

This makes a total of 4266.

Between the years 1929 to 1938 4000 schoolchildren were immunised. Thus since its inauguration in the district, a total of 8266 children have been protected against Diphtheria for the first time.

Re-inoculations 130.

## SCABIES.

The incidence of this disease has declined during the year.

## SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

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### WATER SUPPLIES.

Water Supplies generally have been very satisfactory, no reports of shortage have been received. Samples have been taken for analysis and were reported to be satisfactory.

Extensions to the Regional Water Scheme are being considered in the following Parishes:  
Cullompton, Uffculme, Burlescombe, Uplozman, Whitnage, Hele, Silvertown and Thorverton.

SHOP ACT. No action taken.

SMOKE ABATEMENT. No action taken.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Disposal of Sewage throughout the District is fairly satisfactory although there is need for improvement.



Schemes are urgently required for Bampton, Culmstock, Hemyock, Ashill, Kentisbeare, Sampford Peverell and Willand.

Investigations are being made to ascertain if it is possible to deal with a good number of Villages by means of a Regional Scheme, and eliminate the maintenance of small disposal works.

#### SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected in 24 Parishes and is dealt with by controlled tipping at Gaddon Down, Uffculme. The present scheme is very satisfactory but improvements could be effected and more Parishes included.

#### SCHOOLS.

The general condition and sanitation of schools are satisfactory.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Houses cleansed and redecorated	...	...	9
Nuisances from Cesspools and Waste Deposits	...	...	15
Wells closed	...	...	3
Number of Cowsheds on the Register at the end of Year	...	...	738
Number of Inspections—Cowsheds	...	...	98
„ „ Dairies	...	...	18
Milk Samples Taken	...	...	Nil.
Bakehouse Inspections	...	...	17
Shops and Food Stores	...	...	36
Slaughterhouse Inspections	...	...	516
Inspection of Butchers and Other Shops	...	...	40
„ „ Hide Stores	...	...	7
No. Carcases Examined	...	...	20,911
Amount of Unsound Meat	...	77 tons 7 cwts.	
Inspection of Schools	...	...	8
Disinfections—Infectious Diseases	...	...	23
„ „ Verminous	...	...	10
Knacker Yard	...	...	27
Nuisances and Complaints	...	...	126
Rats and Mice	...	...	36

# 1.—INSPECTION FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

*Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.*

PREMISES. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories ... .. (Including Factory Laundries)	10	Nil	Nil
Workshops ... .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	7	1	Nil
Workplaces .. ... (Other than Outworkers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ... ..	17	1	Nil

# 2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Insufficient W.C. accommodation 1. This was not  
complied with at the end of the year.

## HOUSING.

### 1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—*

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...  | 1063 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose   | 1260 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...       | 895  |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose   | 947  |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...                                   | 40   |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head, and found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... | 855  |

### 2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	53
---	----

### 3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... | 5 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :     |   |
| (a) By owners (work in hand) ...  | 2 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...   | 3 |

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. | 7 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :                |   |
| (a) By owners ... ..  | 4 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..  | 2 |

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted ... .. | Nil. |
| (2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition order ... ..    | Nil. |

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act of 1936 ... .. Nil.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

The systematic inspection of houses of a rateable value of under £16, for sanitary defects, continued throughout the year. As will be seen from the above figures, considerable progress was made.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Owing to the short supply of both materials and labour during the year, the progress made in the renovation of cowsheds has been slow. The farms at which T.T. or Accredited Milk is produced have received special consideration, and Building Licences for repairs allowed.



Milk Sampling is now carried out by the Devon County Council, under the direction of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(b) MEAT INSPECTION.

*Meat Regulations and Slaughterhouses (R. D. C.) Order, 1924.*

Only the slaughterhouse at Tiverton Junction has been in use during the year.

Special attention has been given to the work of meat inspection. All carcasses and offal have been inspected at the time, or just after, slaughter.

Attention has been drawn to the need of cleaning the premises from time to time. This has been carried out, and no Formal Notice has been required to be served.

Minor repairs to the premises have been carried out during the year.

*Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.*

No action has been needed under the above Act. The electroleather is used for the stunning of sheep and pigs, and the Cash Captive Bolt for bullocks and calves.

(c) ADULTERATION.—No action taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.  
No Action taken.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1946 giving age incidence.

Under 1 Year.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Whoop- ing Cough.	Measles.	Pneu- monia.	Ery- sipelas.	Para Typhoid.	Dysen- tery. (Sonné)	Cerebro Spinal Menin- gitis.
0—1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—3	3	1	9	7	—	—	—	—	—
3—5	1	1	12	10	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	9	—	22	39	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	2	—	1	13	2	—	—	—	—
15—20	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—30	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
30—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
55 - over	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Total	17	2	48	75	11	4	1	—	—

PUERPERAL PYREXIA. 4 cases.

TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Mortality during 1946.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	3	3	1	—	—	1	—	—
35	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
45	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
65 up	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	8	9	2	2	2	2	1	—



All the above deaths have been notified according to the Regulations.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925. No action was taken.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62. No action was taken.

I am indebted to the officers of the Council for their help during the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. NICHOLSON.

1870

1871

1872

1873

1874

1875

1876

1877

1878

1879

1880

1881

1882

1883

1884

1885

1886

1887